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Fritz & Jimmy have their CIA wires crossed

President Reagan's telephone call to former President Carter to explain his reference to the "destruction" of U.S. intelligence gathering from 1968 to the advent of the Reagan Administration was a generous gesture — but hardly necessary.

Walter Mondale is still trying to make political mileage out of what he describes as Reagan's "inexcusable" statement and Carter, adding his small mite, keeps saying that Reagan "made another false statement."

They should check their records before venturing into this minefield.

Mondale, as a key member of former Sen. Frank Church's Senate Intelligence Committee, played a key role in the reform of the CIA and other intelligence gathering agencies.

He was assisted in this dubious endeavor by none other than his present foreign policy adviser David Aaron, a senior staff member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Indeed, when Mondale became vice president he brought Aaron into the National Security Council.

Carter and Mondale promptly abol-

ished the President's Intelligence Advisory Board — comprised of former CIA chiefs and current heads of the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency.

In its place they created the Intelligence Coordinating Board of the National Security Council in which Aaron played a prominent role for Mondale by preparing the plans to streamline the CIA's operations by eliminating human agents and relying instead on electric intelligence gathering.

As early as 1977, Admiral Stansfield Turner, head of the CIA, was able to carry out his famous "Halloween Purge" and eliminate 820 clandestine agent positions.

Mondale, in a speech to the American Bar Assn. on Aug. 8, 1977, took credit for "reorganizing management functions within the intelligence community to eliminate waste and duplication."

By 1979, more than 1100 positions had been eliminated.

So much for "inexcusable" statements.